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He is accompanied by Mrs. CAMPBELL and Miss ROWENA BEANS as volunteer assistants, traveling at private expense.

Professor CAMPBELL takes with him a number of instruments for the observation of the eclipse, and expects to secure the needed assistance in India. Besides the 40-foot telescope for large-scale photographs of the corona on Professor SCHAEBERLE'S plan, he has several spectroscopes for special observations. An effort will be made to photograph the changes in the spectrum due to the "reversing layer," which have been noticed visually at previous eclipses, and also to secure photographs of the 1474 K line, for the purpose of determining the question of rotation of the corona.

The funds to defray the expenses of the expedition were provided by the late Colonel C. F. CROCKER, who had provided for two previous eclipse parties from the Lick Observatory.

A private cablegram from the party at Hongkong advises their safe arrival at that port and their close connection with the steamer for Bombay. The latter port should be reached about December 5th.

C. D. P.

THE CHABOT OBSERVATORY ECLIPSE EXPEDITION.

Professor CHARLES BURCKHALTER, Director of the Chabot Observatory, Oakland, Cal., sailed for Hongkong on Saturday, October 30th, and will proceed to India for the purpose of observing photographically the total solar eclipse of January 22, 1898. The exact location of his station will not be decided until he reaches Bombay. Probably it will be somewhere near one of the railroads, a short distance from that city.

Professor BURCKHALTER'S apparatus is essentially the same as that he took to Japan in 1896, an account of which may be found on page 157, Vol. VII, of these *Publications*.

The equipment described therein has been augmented by another lens of the same diameter and focal length, which is the gift of Dr. GEORGE C. PARDEE. It will be packed separately from the other, so that in the event of the loss, damage, or delay of any of the baggage, he will be reasonably sure of having one lens. It is his intention to use both lenses, one with his shutter, the other in the usual manner. The two tubes will be mounted together, one above the other, and the exposures will be coincident, both as to duration and period.

A new mounting was necessary, on account of the additional load. It is constructed almost entirely of heavy gaspipe, and is extremely rigid. The polar axis is hollow, and is fitted with an eyepiece, as an aid in adjusting. The automatic arrangements for securing certainty in exposing have been elaborated upon to such an extent that the inventor now feels certain that nothing can go wrong, at least with this part of the expedition.

Professor BURCKHALTER's parting injunction to his friends was not to wish him a good time or a pleasant journey, but that he might have two minutes of clear sky at the right time. Those of us who have heard him describe the disappointing day in Japan in 1896, and who realize what the success of this expedition means, will be certain to remember him on the eventful day. If friendly good wishes can insure success, he will have it.

ALLEN H. BABCOCK.

ELEMENTS OF COMET *b*, 1897 (PERRINE).

From Mt. Hamilton observations, made on October 16th, 18th, and 20th, we have computed the following elements of the orbit of this comet:—

$$T = 1897 \text{ Dec. } 9.89171 \text{ G. M. T.}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l}\omega = 67^\circ\ 6'\ 55''.2\\ \Omega = 32\ \ \ 8\ \ 37\ .4\\ i = 69\ 45\ 43\ .2\end{array}\right\}\text{Mean equinox and ecliptic of 1897.0}$$

$$\log q = 0.129500.$$

Residuals for the middle place (O — C):—

$$\Delta\lambda \cos\beta = +\ 2''.8,\ \Delta\beta = +2''.4.$$

A comparison of observations made on November 1st with the ephemeris positions computed from these elements shows a satisfactory agreement. W. J. HUSSEY and R. G. AITKEN.

November 3, 1897.

ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS *(Translations).*

Lick Observatory, Oct. 17, 1897.

To Harvard College Observatory:
To Students' Observatory, Berkeley: (Sent 1:00 A. M.)

A comet was discovered by C. D. PERRINE, October 16.7398, G. M. T.; R. A. $3^h\ 36^m\ 7^s.6$; N. P. D. 23° 13′ 16″. The comet is about 2′ in diameter, is as bright as an eighth magnitude star, has a well-defined nucleus and a tail less than 30′ long.